FRONT LINE

A MARVEL COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR

JENKINS

BACHS

LIEBER

FERNANDEZ

KANO

WATSON

RATED T+

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DIRECT EDITION

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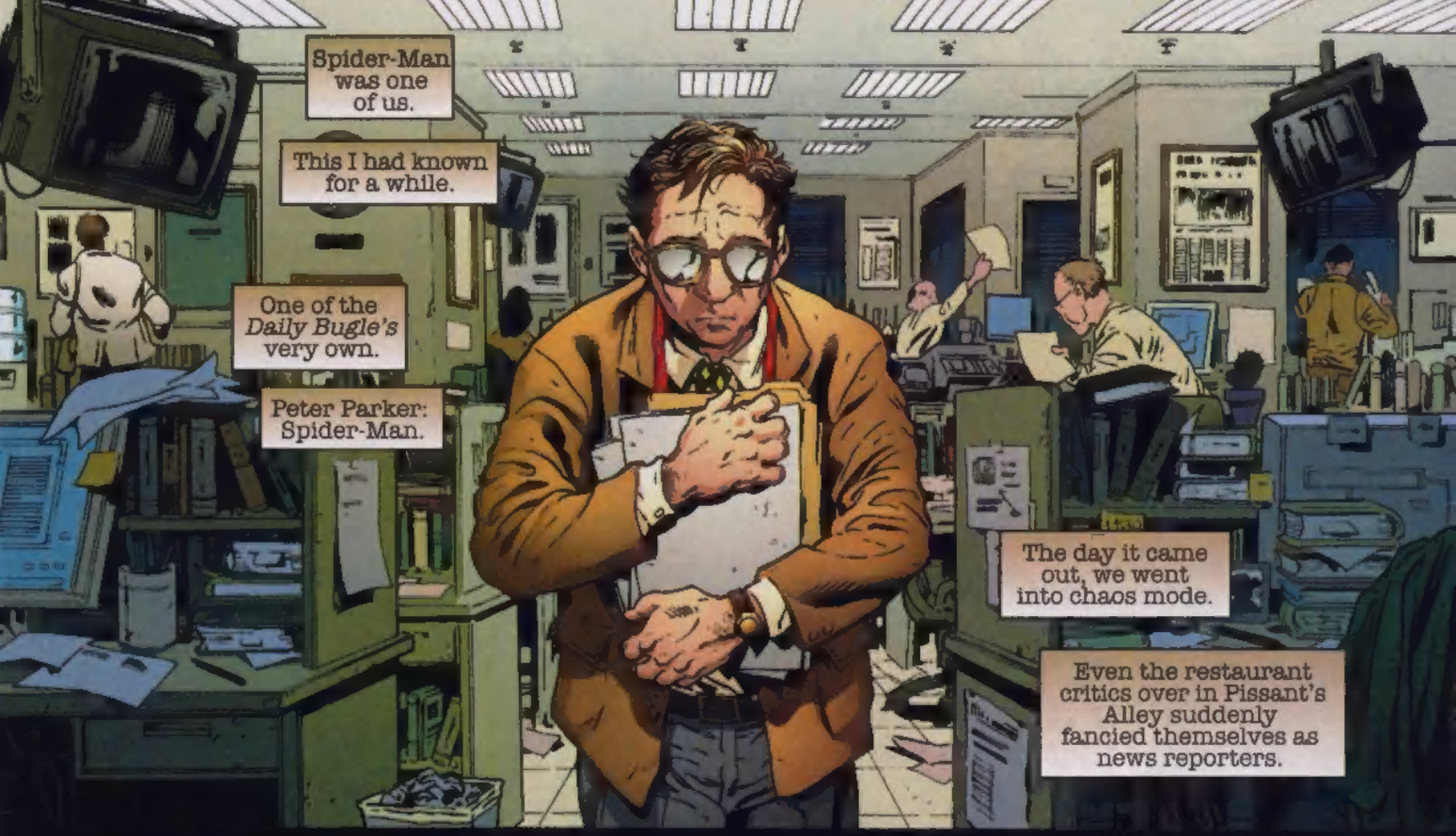
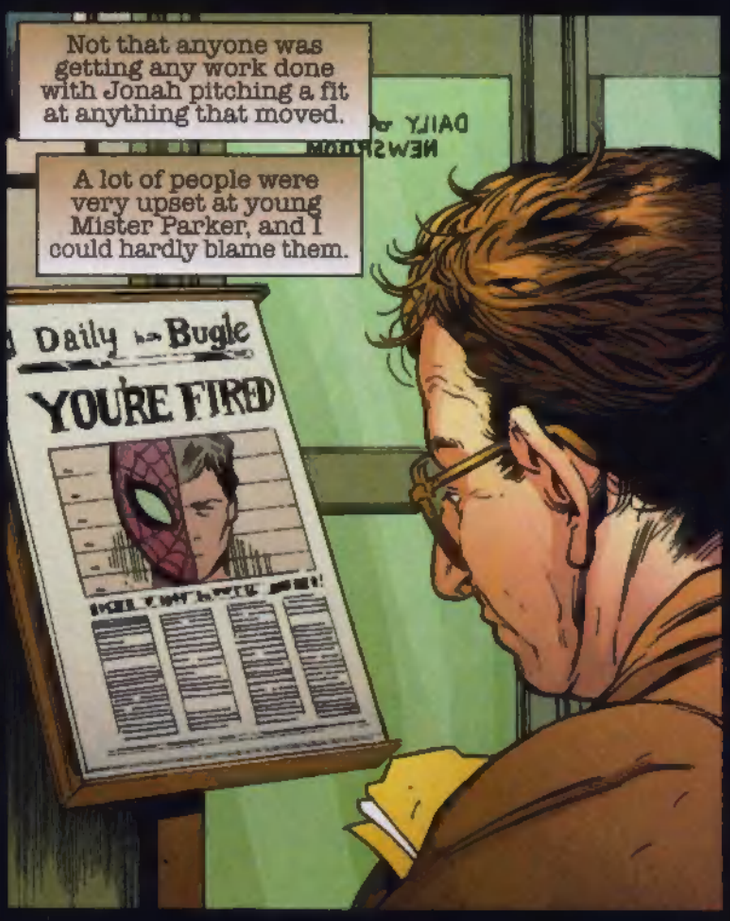

Spider-Man was one of us.
This I had known for a while.
One of the *Daily Bugle's* very own.
Peter Parker: Spider-Man.
The day it came out, we went into chaos mode.
Even the restaurant critics over in Pissant's Alley suddenly fancied themselves as news reporters.


Not that anyone was getting any work done with Jonah pitching a fit at anything that moved.
A lot of people were very upset at young Mister Parker, and I could hardly blame them.
Daily Bugle
YOU'RE FIRED

NIGHT, RALPH.
YOU WATCH YOURSELF OUT THERE, MISTER URICH.

'Cause the **worst** thing you can do to a reporter is put them on the **front page.**

BEN! BEN URICH! ARE YOU PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THE REVELATION THAT PETER PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN? WHAT'S THE MOOD INSIDE THE *BUGLE*?
OH, JONAH GAVE US THE DAY *OFF*, BRIAN. WHAT DID YOU *EXPECT* THE MOOD TO BE LIKE?
LISTEN, GUYS, SERIOUSLY... I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO WRAP MY HEAD AROUND TONY STARK'S COMING-OUT PARTY.
CBS NEWS
NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN THAT'S JUST YESTERDAY'S NEWS. YOU WANT A REAL STORY? ASK PARKER.
C'MON, BEN... IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE WAS THAT SURPRISED ABOUT STARK BEING IRON MAN. BUT PARKER'S A NOBODY-- THIS GUY'S AN UNKNOWN COMMODITY--
YEAH, BUT WHEN I WRITE THE *EXCLUSIVE* BEHIND-THE-SCENES EXPOSE, HE WON'T BE A NOBODY ANYMORE, *WILL* HE? DID I MENTION I'LL BE WRITING THE *EXCLUSIVE*?
BEN, WE KNOW PETER PARKER'S A FRIEND OF YOURS. HAVE YOU MADE ANY CONNECTION WITH HIM SINCE HE CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET?
LIKE I SHOULD JUST CALL HIM ON THE PHONE? I'D IMAGINE HE'S PRETTY BUSY RIGHT NOW.
WAITAMINNIT... I *SHOULD* CALL HIM.

HI... PETE? *PETE!* THIS IS BEN URICH.
LOOK, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START. I MEAN... I GUESS I'M CLAIMING FIRST DIBS. YOU KNOW HOW BIG THIS WOULD BE FOR ME.
ALL I'M SAYING IS... IF YOU CAN FIND IT IN YOUR HEART, FOR OLD-TIME'S SAKE, I'LL DO IT RIGHT--YOU KNOW I'M GOOD FOR THAT.

I HAVE A BILLION QUESTIONS FOR YOU, IF EVER YOU WANT THE INK, PETER. I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT YOUR AUNT MAY IS GOING THROUGH--
SHE'S TAKING IT OKAY.

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EMBEDDED PART TWO

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WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	COLORIST	LETTERER	COVER	EDITOR	EXECUTIVE EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF	PUBLISHER

3:1 Tony Soprano
5:1 Adam Vinatieri
12:1 Conan O'Brien
20:1 Reed Richards
100:1 Richard Simmons
500:1 _____
1000:1 _____
...AND WITH THE CURRENT MANIA SWEEPING THE STREETS, TONIGHT IN OUR "GUESS THE SECRET IDENTITY" SEGMENT OF THE SHOW WE'RE GUESSING THE REAL IDENTITY OF BULLSEYE!
FIVE HUNDRED TO ONE--IT'S KIND OF A LONG SHOT HERE, FOLKS... THE PRINCE OF POP HIMSELF: MICHAEL JACKSON!
HA!HA!HA!HA!HA
MOTO, NEW YORK, N.Y.
PEOPLE DON'T GET IT, MISS FLOYD: THEY THINK THIS IS A BIG JOKE, OR SOMETHING.
BUT THEY DON'T PUT ON A COSTUME, DO THEY? SO HOW CAN I EXPECT THEM TO RELATE?
HEY... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DRESSES FOR MARDI GRAS AND GOES AROUND CALLING YOURSELF FIRESTAR. CAN YOU BLAME ANYONE FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING?
SO TELL ME WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO... USE MY REAL NAME AND THROW MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY INTO THE MIX?
THEY DIDN'T CHOOSE THIS LIFE, MISS FLOYD--I DID. AND NOW SOMEONE SOMEWHERE HAS DECIDED THAT'S JUST TOO BAD BECAUSE I'M SUDDENLY A DANGER TO SOCIETY.
I WAS IN THE NEW WARRIORS. I LOST A LOT OF GOOD FRIENDS BECAUSE OF WHAT NITRO DID AT STAMFORD. BUT I DON'T EVER REMEMBER US BEING THAT DANGEROUS.
"... AND AT ONE THOUSAND TO ONE IN THE BULLSEYE SECRET IDENTITY SWEEPSTAKES... THE DARK HORSE CANDIDATE IS...
"...DICK CHENEY!"
HA!HA!HA!HA!HA!

THIS THING WITH THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT: NOW THEY WANT TO TELL US IF WE CAN KEEP SECRETS OR NOT. THEY WANT TO PUT OUR FAMILIES IN DANGER AND THEN DICTATE WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN PROTECT OURSELVES.
NOT TO MENTION I HAVE A DAY JOB.

A DAY JOB?
I'M A STUDENT. MY GRADE POINT AVERAGE IS BAD ENOUGH... BUT CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE REGISTRATION PEOPLE PAID A VISIT TO MY PROFESSORS BECAUSE THEY NEEDED ME TO BRING DOWN SOME VILLAIN?

WORD GETS AROUND, MISS FLOYD. THE REGISTRATION ADVOCATES WANT A LOT MORE THAN THEY REALIZE.
MEANWHILE, I GOTTA TRY TO MAKE A FUTURE FOR MYSELF SO THAT I CAN EARN MONEY TO PAY FOR MY COLLEGE TUITION. I MEAN FORGET ABOUT MY CAREER AS A SUPER HERO. IT WON'T LAST LONG IF I CAN'T EAT.

I GUESS THAT'S WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO: I JUST CAN'T AFFORD THIS ANYMORE.
WAIT... YOU MEAN IF YOU REGISTER THEN THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE MONEY FOR YOUR TUITION? LIKE A LOAN OR SOMETHING?

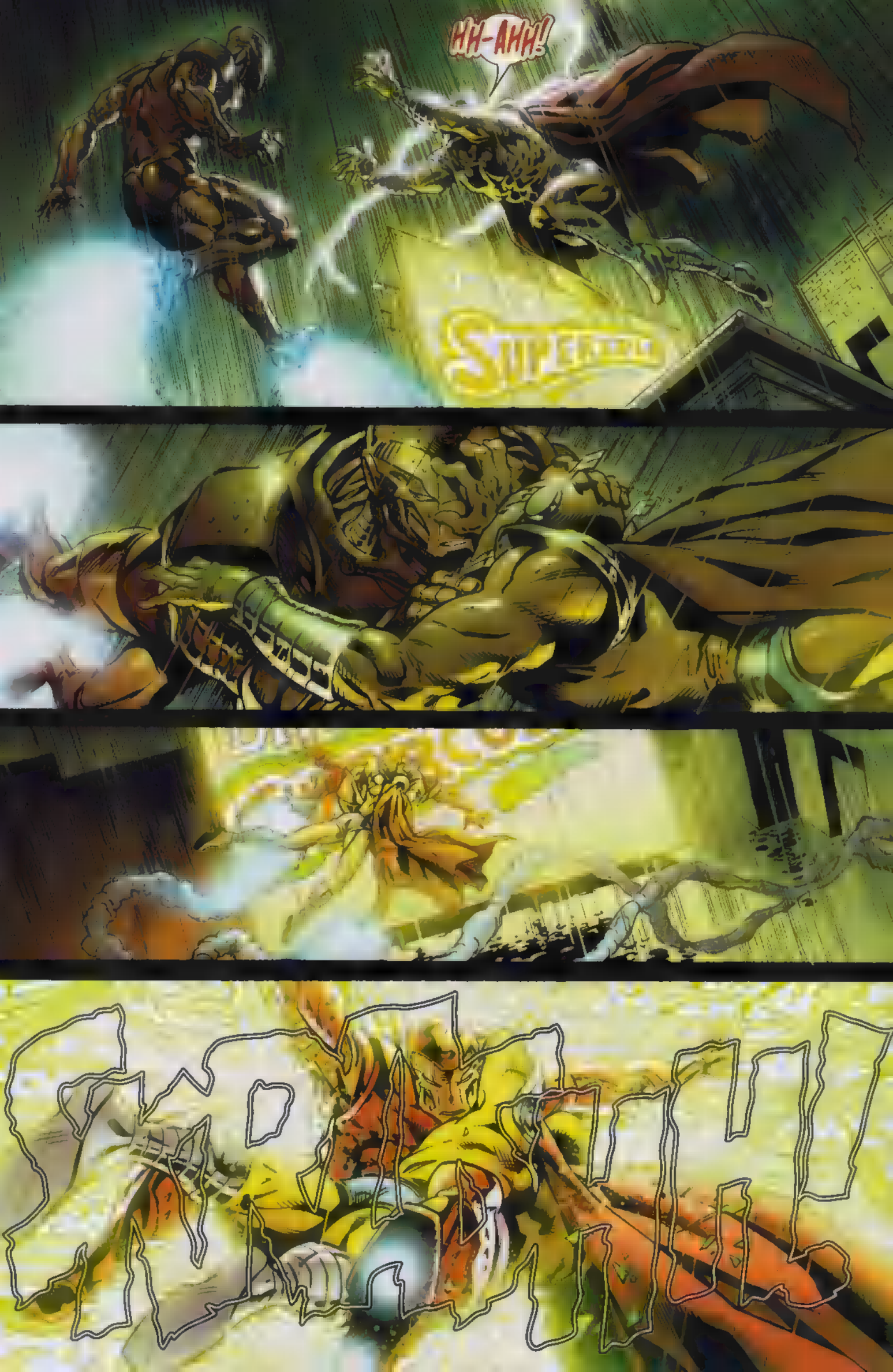
NOPE. I MEAN I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE FIRESTAR.
I QUIT.
PIZZA

THE DAILY BUGLE OFFICES, NEW YORK, N.Y.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "URICH TALKED TO PARKER?"
URICH TALKED TO PARKER. LAST NIGHT. IN AN ELEVATOR. HE SAID IT ONLY LASTED A COUPLE OF MINUTES.
JONAH J JAMESON
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, JONAH, PETER APPARENTLY WANTED TO RELAY A MESSAGE. HE SAID, AND I QUOTE, "HE'S SORRY... BUT HE'S NOT THAT SORRY BECAUSE YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A TOOL."
ALSO, HE SAID HE QUITS, BACKDATED TO BEFORE YOU FIRED HIM.
THIS THING HAS SOME REAL POTENTIAL, BOSS. REMEMBER, YOU WANTED TO SUPPORT THE ONES IN FAVOR OF THE ACT. BY COMING OUT PUBLICLY, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT PETER'S DOING.
BEN URICH COULD MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN HERE. YOU KNOW HE DOES GOOD WORK--
OH YEAH? AN' WHICH FRUITCAKE IS URICH? WHAT'S HE... THE PHANTOM CYCLIST? THE THING? DOCTOR FREAKIN' DOOM?
LORD... WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT, ROBBY? WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED SPIDER-MAN WAS ONE OF MY OWN FREELANCERS?
NOT HIS PUBLISHER, THAT'S FOR SURE.
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDERMAN-PARKER
EXACTLY! HE MADE A MOCKERY OF THIS NEWSPAPER.
AN' HE MADE A FOOL OUT OF ME.

ARRGH! I TREATED THAT UNGRATEFUL LITTLE BRAT LIKE HE WAS MY SON--
JONAH, YOU TREATED HIM LIKE HE WAS A CAN OF ANTHRAX YOU GOT IN THE MAIL. YOU TREAT EVERYONE THAT WAY. PETER'S ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD KID--
NO, YOU KNOW WHAT HE IS? HE'S A BETRAYER. I GAVE HIM A GOOD JOB AN' HE SPENT ALL DAY WORKING ON WAYS TO PROTECT HIMSELF ON MY DIME!
GOOD PEOPLE COME CLEAN. THE BAD ONES MAKE UP LIES AN' GET EXPOSED ON NATIONAL TV.
SO THAT'S WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME, ROBBIE: HE'S JUST ANOTHER NEWSMAN WANNABE WHO MADE UP LIES AN' GOT CAUGHT.
WHAT... ARE YOU GONNA FOLLOW ME IN HERE, EVEN?
NO. I JUST WANT TO GIVE BEN URICH THE STORY AND LET HIM RUN WITH IT. IT'LL SELL.
URICH CAN GO SPIT IN THE WIND--PARKER ISN'T OUR STORY.
I WANT TO WRITE ABOUT A REAL HERO.

D'YOU KNOW WHO I AM? HUH?
'M A HERO!
YEAH... THA'S RIGHT... I SAID I'M A HERO! A GOOD GUY!
AN' IN ONE MINUTE I'LL BE A BAD GUY 'CAUSE SOME POLITICIAN SAYS THERE'S A DEADLINE!
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL, HUH, SALLY? ANYONE RECOGNIZE THIS GUY?
ONE OF THE OLD SLINGERS: HIS NAME'S PRODIGY. SAYS HE'S NOT TAKING HIS MASK OFF BECAUSE HE WANTS TO PROVE A POINT.
NYPD
LOOKS LIKE HE PROVED IT.

OH YEAH... THAT'S IT, STARK. YOU COME AN' GET ME, YOU BIG WIMP!
THEN WE C'N LET TH' PEOPLE DECIDE!
YOU ARE NOW RECOGNIZED AS AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT. PLEASE EXIT THIS AREA QUIETLY. YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS TO COMPLY.
D'YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE, STARK? YOU'VE GIVEN THEM ALL THE AMMUNITION THEY NEED!
THEY'LL TEAR US APART BECAUSE OF YOU, AND YOU'LL GO BACK TO YOUR BILLIONAIRE MANSION AND THINK OF SOMETHIN' ELSE TO SPEND YOUR MONEY ON WHILE THE REST OF US TRY TO GET BY ON SQUAT.
WHERE ARE THE MILLIONS TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY, HUH? WHERE'S MY PENSION PLAN?
PRODIGY, PLEASE... ALL I'M ASKING IS THAT YOU GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO THIS. KEEP AN OPEN MIND. DON'T RUIN EVERYTHING YOU'VE WORKED FOR BECAUSE OF PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS.
KSSSH
PEOPLE WANT THE ACT-- THEY NEED IT. AND IF WE DENY IT, WE'RE JUST HIDING OUR HEADS IN THE SAND. WE CAN STILL WORK SOMETHING OUT IF YOU'LL JUST COME WITH ME--
MAKE ME, YOU TRAITOR.
MAKE ME.


HH-AHH!
SUPERMAN

GET DOWN! GET DOWN!
OWW! HEY!
OH, MY...
BEN... WHAT [illegible] YOU PLAYING AT? WE GOTTA GET UNDER COVER... THIS IS A WAR ZONE!
SALLY... LOOK!

OKAY... LET'S GO! GO!
I'M GOING!
YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!
OH YEAH? AN' [redacted] EXACTLY IS THIS MYTHICAL SHANGRI-LA YOU CALL "SAFETY?"
LEAVE HIM ALONE, YOU FASCISTS! ALL HE [redacted] DID WAS HIS JOB--
SALLY!
But it didn't matter anymore: this was out of our hands now. It was for the power-players to decide.
And power will always **consume** itself.

At precisely midnight on Deadline Day, [illegible] citizens of New York-- myself included-- witnessed the very first act of the coming Civil War.
Most people didn't even [illegible] it [illegible] the time.
Some of us [illegible] for the Registration Act. Some of [illegible] voiced our dissenting opinion.
All of us watched in awe [illegible] our newest law [illegible] violently, efficiently enforced.
People could debate forever the reasons for this. But nobody questioned the enforcers.
People never **do** until it's too late.

I remember Sally Floyd, yelling up at the sky like a banshee.
I remember the sound of ambulances and the smell of ozone mixed with cordite.
I remember seeing a dark mass of airborne troops move silently and efficiently back into the sky, like bats.
PRESS
And I kept thinking to myself, "You know who's going to **pay** for all of this?
"We **are**."
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ACCUSED

PART TWO

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I SAID, I WANT TO SEE MY LAWYER. YOU CAN'T HOLD ME HERE. IT'S [redacted] MORE THAN THREE DAYS. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT.
HEY... ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME, DUDE? AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN I HAVE A RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY! EITHER CHARGE ME WITH A CRIME OR LET ME GO--
SHUT UP, MISTER BALDWIN. JUST LISTEN.

I'M REQUIRED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT--WHICH PASSED IN BOTH CONGRESS AND THE SENATE THREE DAYS AGO--WAS SIGNED INTO LAW TODAY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
THE REGISTRATION ACT STATES THAT ALL VIGILANTES, COSTUMED ACTIVISTS AND/OR HYPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS--CLASSIFIED LOOSELY AS "HEROES" UNDER THE DEFINITION CLAUSES OF THE ACT--ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH LOCAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES.
ARE YOU EVEN SERIOUS, MARSHALL--?

DUE TO THE HIGH PROFILE NATURE OF YOUR CASE, THE PRESIDENT FEELS YOU WOULD BE MORE USEFUL AS A REGISTRANT THAN A CONVICT. IT SENDS [redacted] GOOD MESSAGE ABOUT SUPER HERO REFORM.
YOU'RE BEING OFFERED A ONE-TIME CHANCE TO ESCAPE PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY YOURSELF AND YOUR FORMER TEAMMATES IN STAMFORD.

BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

YOUR LIFE AS YOU KNEW IT IS OVER, MISTER BALDWIN. WE'VE SENT YOUR IDENTITY TO MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON POLICE--
--GIVEN THE UNTIMELY DEATHS OF YOUR FORMER TEAMMATES, THAT PLACES A VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF BLAME SQUARELY AT YOUR FEET.
WHAT? NO... LISTEN TO ME: IT WASN'T OUR FAULT. WE DID EVERYTHING BY THE BOOK!
THIS IS A JOKE. ANY MINUTE NOW YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THIS IS A JOKE--
OUR OFFER IS AS FOLLOWS: THAT YOU REGISTER WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS AS A COSTUMED VIGILANTE AND THAT YOU SUBSEQUENTLY WORK FOR S.H.I.E.L.D., FOLLOWING OUR SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES.
YOU WILL ASSIST IN THE TRAINING OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS TO TRACK AND SUBDUE UNREGISTERED INDIVIDUALS. YOU WILL DO SO WILLINGLY, AND IN GOOD FAITH, OR YOU WILL BE SEEN IN CONTEMPT OF THIS AGREEMENT.
IF YOU REFUSE TO SIGN, YOU WILL BE INCARCERATED AT THE PLEASURE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
I'M NOT SIGNING ANYTHING BECAUSE I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG. WHAT HAPPENED IN STAMFORD COULD HAVE HAPPENED ANYWHERE.
I KNOW MY RIGHTS AND I WANT MY DAMN LAWYER!
YOU'RE AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT, MISTER BALDWIN.
I DEFINE YOUR RIGHTS.

...NO, LISTEN TO ME... YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME TALK TO SOMEONE...
...MY PARENTS... THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW [redacted] I AM... THAT I'M ALIVE...
...GOD, WHERE AM I? AM I EVEN IN AMERICA..?

GUYS, SERIOUSLY... I'M, LIKE, BEGGING YOU HERE. DON'T MAKE ME [redacted] 'CAUSE IT WON'T BE PRETTY.
PLUS, YOU DON'T WANT TO [redacted] CRY. IT'LL HAUNT YOUR DREAMS. I'M [redacted] GOOD CRIER.

LOOK... YOU GUYS HAVE FAMILY, RIGHT?
I MEAN, JUST LET ME GET [redacted] TO SOMEONE. YOU GUYS LOOK PRETTY SMART. YOU KNOW THIS IS BULL--

-HUFF!-

OHH... UHH...
WHUMP
WACK
YEAH... I GOT A FAMILY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I GOT A COUSIN IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT.
I USED TO HAVE. AND SHE DIED 'CAUSE SOME ATTENTION-SEEKING MORON IN A COSTUME DECIDED TO RECORD I CRIME-FIGHTING SPREE ON NATIONAL TV.
IT WASN'T OUR FAULT. IT [redacted] NITRO. I'M SORRY [redacted] TO THOSE PEOPLE--
NOT LIKE YOU WILL BE, BOY!
THUMP

I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU, MISTER BALDWIN.
BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE [redacted] THE TOOLS TO DO MY JOB. THE LAW IS THE LAW, AND NO ONE'S GOING TO STEP FORWARD [redacted] BECOME YOUR ADVOCATE AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN STAMFORD.
[redacted] GOD'S SAKE, MAN, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO REASON.
"NO ONE IN AMERICA [redacted] ABOUT YOU STANDING UP FOR YOUR PRINCIPLES. YOUR ACTIONS CAUSED THE DEATHS OF SIXTY CHILDREN--"
"I'M NOT THE [redacted] WHO EXPLODED. I WAS THE ONE TRYING TO STOP HIM."
"AND YOU FAILED!"
LISTEN TO ME, ROBBIE: THIS [redacted] THE BEST O[redacted] YOU'RE GOING TO GET. IF YOU SIMPLY AGREE TO REGISTER--
--THEN I'LL BE ADMITTING GUILT. AND I'M NOT GUILTY.
THEN I CAN DO NOTHING FOR YOU.

"AS AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT, YOU'LL [redacted] TAKEN TO A MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY SOMEWHERE IN THE LOWER FORTY-EIGHT STATES...
"...POSSIBLY ALABAMA OR TEXAS. THEY'RE GOING TO WANT TO SET AN EXAMPLE.
"THEY'VE PUT YOUR IDENTITY OUT ON THE NEWSWIRES NOW. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF VERY NASTY PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU'RE COMING."
"I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF."
"WITHOUT YOUR KINETIC ENERGY POWERS? FOR HOW LONG, I WONDER?
"YOU'LL BE HELD AT THE DISCRETION OF S.H.I.E.L.D. UNTIL THEY'VE COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION AT A SECOND FACILITY, AT WHICH POINT YOU WILL BE TRANSFERRED.
"AND THAT'S ONLY IF YOU *SURVIVE* THE TRANSFER PERIOD."

PRISONER INCOMING! CLEAR THE DOORS!
...WHAT'S UP, BABY-KILLER..?
...WELCOME TO THE FARM...
...I KNOW YOU, SPEEDY-BALL... I KNOW WHAT YOU LIKE...
...GONNA SHOW YOU AROUND, BOY...
...SHOW YOU A GOOD TIME...
...LIKE YOU SHOWED THEM KIDS...
TIK
HH-UHH!

TOOMEY.
YOU GET [redacted] TO THAT NAME, BABY-KILLER, 'CAUSE YOU'RE GONNA HEAR IT IN YOUR MIND EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
BUT DON'T TELL ME YOUR NAME. I ALREADY KNOW YOUR NAME.

AA-UHH!

YOUR NAME IS DIRT.
TO BE CONTINUED...

MY NAME IS PETER PARKER AND I'VE BEEN SPIDER-MAN SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD.
ANY QUESTIONS?
WHOA... HEY!
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO COME TO CHINA TO PROMOTE THE NEXT OLYMPIC GAMES?
MISTER PARKER! HOW CAN YOU PROVE YOU'RE THE REAL SPIDER-MAN?
WILL THERE BE A BOOK ANYTIME SOON? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AUTHORS?
WHERE DO YOU WORK?
ANY TRUTH TO [redacted] RUMOR YOU WERE ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH SUE STORM LAST YEAR?
CAN YOU TELL [redacted] WHAT [redacted] THIS DECISION?
MISTER PARKER, CAN YOU TELL US WHY YOU SETTLED ON "SPIDER-MAN?"
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD BE AFRAID OF CAPTAIN JELLYFISH.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE [redacted] ROCK STAR?
A TEACHER OF MANKIND?
I'M A TEACHER.
NO... TENTH GRADERS.
SERIOUSLY, MISTER PARKER, WHY 'SPIDER-MAN?'
MISTER FANTASTIC WAS TAKEN.
HOW DID YOU GET YOUR POWERS?
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

MISTER PARKER, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NORMAN OSBORN, AKA *"THE GREEN GOBLIN"*?
[redacted] IT [redacted] TO SAY THAT YOU AND HE IN YOUR COSTUMED GUISES HAVE BECOME, SOME WOULD SAY, *"MORTAL ENEMIES?"* CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE REASONS WHY?
"NORMAN OSBORN MURDERED SOMEONE VERY DEAR TO ME--IT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO...
"THAT PERSON--MORE THAN ANY PERSON IN THE WORLD--DID NOT [redacted] TO DIE.
"HE *KNEW* IT. AND THAT'S WHY HE *DID* IT."
YOU BROKE THE RULES.
I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF PERSON NORMAN OSBORN HAS ALWAYS BEEN... WHY HE DESERVES TO BE IN JAIL FOR THE REST OF HIS *LIFE*.
HE'S JUST [redacted] CRIMINAL.
JUST LIKE ALL THE REST.

OKAY, LOOK... THIS IS A DOWNER. SOMEONE ASK ME ABOUT THE FUN STUFF.
MY [redacted] INCLUDE VIDEO [redacted] AND PHOTOGRAPHY--

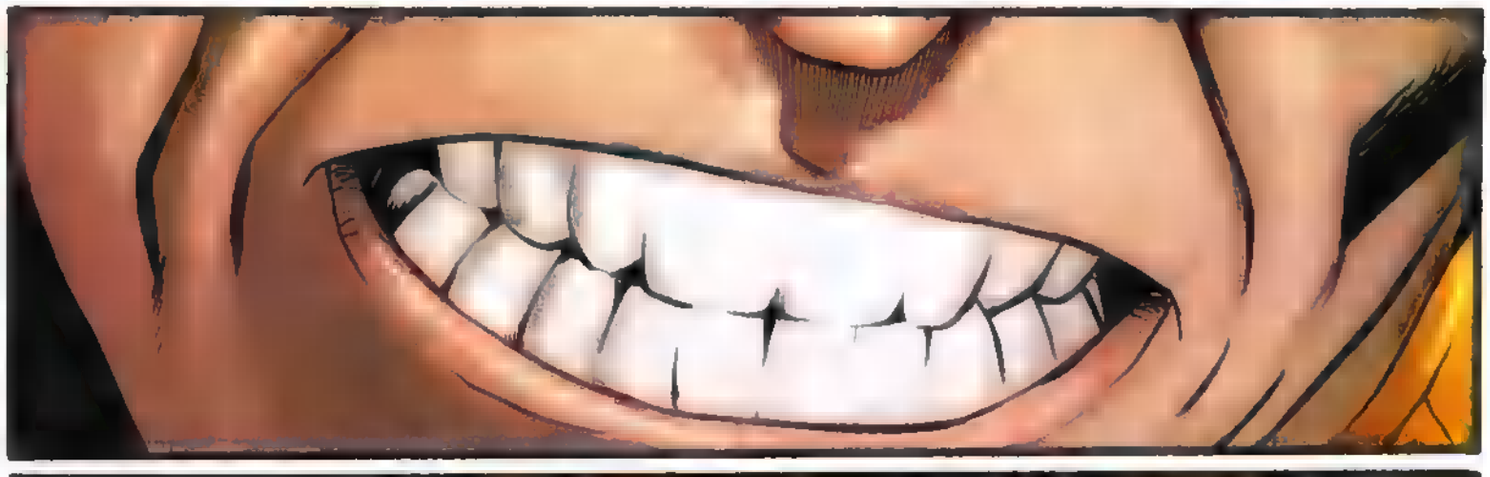
[redacted] YOU TRYING TO KILL OSBORN?
HAVE YOU [redacted] TO THE [redacted]
CAN WE ASSUME YOU [redacted] REGISTRATION ACT?
MISTER PARKER: CAN YOU TELL US YOUR PLANS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE?

WELL, THAT'S THE BIG QUESTION, ISN'T IT?

YOU BROKE THE RULES!
SKRUNK-K!

PAUSE

KA-SHI-ZZT



CIVIL WAR: THE PROGRAM

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By the year 59 B.C., Gaius Julius Caesar had become one of the most popular men in Rome. A veteran of numerous successful campaigns that extended the influence of Rome through Northern Europe, he was elected "Senior Consul of the Roman Republic" by the Centuriate Assembly.

Caesar shared the Consulate position with two men: Pompey the Great and Marcus Licinius Crassus, a millionaire of the day. Despite Caesar's obvious benefit to Rome, his moves were often blocked by a corrupt Roman senate. In 50 B.C., he was ordered to disband his legions and return to Rome.

To Caesar, this was an illegal act: his consulship was perfectly legitimate, and yet he had been forbidden to stand for a second term.

And so on January 10th in the year 49 B.C.—accused of insubordination and treason--Gaius Julius Caesar brought his single legion to the banks of the Rubicon river, a natural border that marked the edge of his territory. Neither he nor the Roman Senate wanted conflict, yet Caesar's hand had been forced, and he was not the kind of man to back down without a fight.

As described by the Greek historian, Plutarch, Julius Caesar knew that the very moment he crossed the Rubicon he would ignite a civil war.

When Caesar [redacted] to [redacted] river Rubicon, which parts Gaul within the Alps from the rest of Italy, his thoughts began to work...
...he [redacted] just entering upon the danger, and he wavered much in his mind when he considered the greatness of the enterprise into which he [redacted] throwing himself.
He checked his course and ordered a halt, while he revolved within himself, and often changed his opinion [redacted] way and the other, without speaking a word.
This was when his purposes fluctuated most...
[redacted] YOU SURE IT'S HIM? CAIUS JULIUS? [redacted] WOULD [redacted] DARE ATTACK HERE--
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF DARING. THE SENATORS ARE DEMANDING HE GIVE UP [redacted] CONSULSHIP AND RETURN TO ROME.
FOR HIM, IT'S EITHER A QUICK DEATH NOW OR A SLOW DEATH LATER. AND YOU KNOW CAESAR-- HE'S NOT THE KIND OF MAN TO [redacted] SLOWLY.

IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG DAY, QUINTUS. I SAW CROWS THIS MORNING FEEDING ON A SNAKE.
HMMF. THAT'S NOT A GOOD SIGN. IT MEANS THE PREDATOR IS CONSUMED BY THE PREY.
MAYBE IT JUST MEANS THE CROWS WERE HUNGRY.
MAYBE IT MEANS THEY WERE SCARED ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO A SUPERIOR FOE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT, I STILL THINK THIS IS CRAZY. WHO'S GOING TO BENEFIT FROM A CIVIL WAR IF HE ATTACKS NOW? CAESAR? THE GENERALS?
NO ONE BENEFITS. BUT YOU FOUGHT AT BIBRACTE, DIDN'T YOU?
WITH GAIUS JULIUS, NO LESS.
THEN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES WAR IS ABOUT SURVIVAL, QUINTUS. IF YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE FIRST DAYS OF PEACETIME...
"...THEN YOU MUST ALSO BE THERE FOR THE FIRST ACT OF WAR."

Presently Caesar also discussed the matter with his friends who were about him (of which number Asinius Pollio was one), computing how many calamities his passing that river would bring upon mankind, and what a relation of it would be transmitted to posterity.
THIS IS IT, CAIUS JULIUS. IF WE CROSS THAT RIVER, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.

CAESAR? DO WE MOVE ACROSS THE RIVER, OR WITHDRAW? WHERE WOULD YOU HAVE US GO?
WHERE THE OMENS OF THE GODS AND THE CRIMES OF OUR ENEMIES SUMMON US, ASINIUS.
ALEA IACTA EST.
YOU ARE NOW RECOGNIZED AS AN UNREGISTERED COMBATANT. PLEASE EXIT THIS AREA QUIETLY. YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS TO COMPLY.
PRODIGY, PLEASE--
YEEAARRGH!
AHHH!
HE'S DOWN! GO! GO!

OF *COURSE* IT'S A GOOD THING. I'D RATHER RELY ON MY OWN JUDGMENT THAN ON LAWS HANDED TO ME BY SOME FAT, DISTANT SENATOR. ROME NEEDS SHAKING UP, AND CAESAR'S JUST THE MAN TO DO IT.
I SAW YOU TALKING TO HIM BEFORE THE ORDER CAME TO CROSS. WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SEEMS TO THINK SO.
HE SAID, "*ALEA IACTA EST.*

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